



Town of Framingham Police Department

Policy on Exposure to Blood-Borne Pathogens #500-4

Issue date: 07/01/03

Type of policy: New (X) Amendment () Re-Issue ()

Effective date: 07/01/03

Level: Public Safety () Police Division (X) Town Wide ()

Policy Statement

Contact with any potentially infectious material is considered an exposure regardless of the frequency or duration of the exposure. Human bites also constitute an exposure to PIM. By following the procedures outlined in this policy, exposure to PIM will be reduced and it's effects mitigated.

References

None

Special Terms

Potentially Infectious Material (PIM) - blood and the following body substances: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva, any body fluid in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.

Infectious Control Officer (ICO) – An officer designated by the Chief of Police to coordinate exposure control measures within the department.

Spill Kit – a kit containing materials to safely collect, package and dispose of potentially infected materials.

MWMC – Metro West Medical Center

Policy

I. Compliance Methods: Universal Precautions

All individuals will be considered potentially infectious regardless of how much is known about the person's health status. Therefore all blood or PIM will be considered potentially infectious and steps will be taken to avoid direct contact with blood or PIM.

1. The following work practices will be followed:

a. No eating, drinking or smoking is allowed in areas where blood or PIM could be present.

b. Wash

- Wash with soap and water immediately after skin contact with blood or PIM or immediately after removal of gloves. Washing facilities are located at the booking area.
- If soap and water are not immediately available (e.g., in the vehicles), then a waterless, antiseptic hand cleanser is available in each medical kit. Soap and running water will be used as soon as possible.
- Mucous membranes will be flushed with water immediately or as soon as feasible after contact with blood or PIM. Flushing facilities are located at the Police Station inside Fleet Maintenance and at the Metro West Medical Center.

c. Gloves

- Inspect latex/vinyl gloves for holes/tears when put on, replace if holes or tears are present.
- Gloves (latex/vinyl) will be replaced as soon as

possible if they become ripped or soiled. Employees should wash their hands as soon as possible after removing gloves.

- An extra set of latex/vinyl gloves should be carried.
- Tear/puncture resistant leather or similar gloves should be used in situations where a stronger barrier is needed (e.g., extracting victims from a vehicle where there is broken glass).

d. Personal Protective Equipment

- Resuscitation bags are available in each vehicles medical kit

e. Contaminated Equipment

- Any non-disposal equipment or surface that becomes contaminated with blood or PIM shall be decontaminated with an approved disinfecting agent as soon as possible and air dried. (this includes seats on the vehicles, etc.)
- If not feasible, the equipment must be labeled as a biohazard which indicates where the contamination is located on the item prior to shipping or servicing.
- Contaminated equipment will not be cleaned in eating areas. Washing will be done at the booking area or maintenance areas.

f. Contaminated Clothing

- Clothing (uniforms) contaminated with blood or other PIM shall be removed as soon as feasible and cleaned
- Contaminated items to be disposed of (other than sharps) will be placed in biohazard bags located in the booking area. The bags must be disposed of at the MPMC Emergency Room.
NOTE: there is a biohazard disposal container inside the ambulance entrance doors.

g. Sharps

- Contaminated sharps will not be bent, recapped, removed, sheared or purposely broken.
- Contaminated sharps will not be picked up off the floor by hand. (For example, a dust pan and broom should be used, instead)
- Contaminated sharps shall be placed in the puncture resistant, leak proof labeled sharps container located at the booking desk (or tube type container in each vehicle)

h. Spill Kit

- A “Spill Kit” is available in the booking area and will be used in the station or vehicle when there is a spill of body fluids and there are no other means of cleaning/disinfecting.
- Disposal of the “Spill Kit” and any PIM materials must be taken to the emergency room of the Metro West Medical center for disposal. There is a biohazard disposal container near the ambulance entrance doors.
- The infectious Control Officer (ICO) has responsibility to replace the kit after it is used, however the officer using the Spill Kit shall notify his/her supervisor who will in turn notify the ICO that the kit has been used.

II. Post-Exposure evaluation and follow-up

1. When an employee incurs an unprotected exposure to blood or PIM, it shall be reported to their commanding officer and the Officer should go directly to MPMC
2. An Officer Injury Report will be completed by the commanding officer
3. Any follow-up or evaluation of the exposed employee(s) will be done by Metro-West Medical Center.
4. the department's ICO will attempt to gain consent from the source subject to have his/her blood examined for bloodborne pathogens.

5. If a follow up medical visit is required, an appointment can be made with Reliant Medical @ 508-852-0600 at the Southboro office.

III. Hepatitis B Vaccine

All employees who may be exposed to blood or PIM will be offered the Hepatitis B vaccine at no cost to the employee. Employees who initially decline the vaccine but who later wish to have it may then have the vaccine provided at no cost.

IV. Training

1. training for all officers will be conducted annually during in-service training.
2. Training records will be maintained by the Officer in charge of training
3. Training will include:
 - Epidemiology and systems of blood-borne diseases
 - Modes of transmission of blood-borne diseases
 - Control measures
 - Personal protective equipment available in this department
 - Post exposure follow-up and evaluation
 - The reporting procedures that an employee of the department should follow
 - Hepatitis B vaccine program

V. Recordkeeping

The Chief of Police will be responsible for maintaining employee medical records. He/She shall ensure that those records are kept confidential and that they are not disclosed or reported without the employee's expressed written consent. These records shall be maintained for the duration of the employee's employment.